

Remarks:

Applicant has carefully studied the non-final Examiner's Action mailed 01/20/2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 04/20/2006, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant responds to the outstanding Action by centered headings that correspond to the centered headings employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Elections/Restrictions

Applicant thanks the Office for acknowledging Applicant's election of Group I. Unelected claims 15-28 are cancelled herewith.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the preamble to claim 1 recites a frame and the body of the claim further recites a gate. This ground of rejection is met by amending claim 1 so that the preamble positively recites the gate as well as the frame in combination with one another. With respect to claim 7, said claim stands rejected because the final paragraph thereof is functional. This ground of rejection is met by deleting said functional recitation because it does not further limit the structural elements of the claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,161,783 to German. Applicant does not traverse this ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Applicant acknowledges the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 2-4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German as applied to claims 1 and 7, and further in view of U. S. patent No. 5,868,382 to Groves. Applicant does not traverse this ground of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5, 6, and 9-14 are indicated as being in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 as currently amended includes the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and all intervening claims (2-5) and is therefore now in condition for allowance, together with claims 6-14.

Conclusion

Applicant agrees that the art made of record and not relied upon is not more pertinent to the claimed invention than the art cited.

If a Notice of Allowance cannot be entered for any reason, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 791-3290 is requested. Applicant thanks the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

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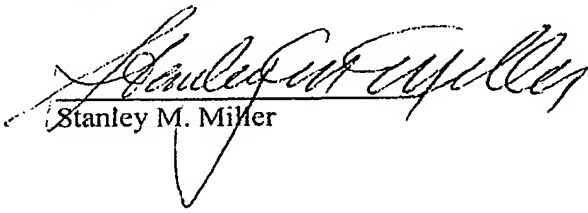
pc: Mr. Jeff Bemis

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment A, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Claims, and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 3679, Attn: Mr. Nahid Amiri, (571) 273-8300 on April 17, 2006

Dated: April 17, 2006


Stanley M. Miller